REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action

dated March 23, 2005. Claims 1 to 51 remain in the application, of which Claims 1, 11,

12, 14 to 17, 27, 37, 48 and 51 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination

are respectfully requested.

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Without conceding the

correctness of the rejection, Claim 17 has nonetheless been amended, without narrowing

the scope of the claim, such that it is believed to fully comply with § 101. Accordingly,

withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 3, 7 to 19 and 23 to 29 and 33 to 39 were rejected under 35

U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,707,570 (Gotanda), and

Claims 4 to 6, 20 to 22, 30 to 32 and 51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over

Gotanda in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,687,018 (Leong), Claims 40, 42, 44 and 46 were

rejected under § 103(a) over Gotanda in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,806,977 (Freeny),

Claims 41, 43, 45 and 47 were rejected under § 103(a) over Gotanda in view of U.S. Patent

No. 6,157,824 (Bailey), Claims 48 and 49 were rejected under § 103(a) over Gotanda in

view of U.S. Patent No. 6,760,128 (Jackson), and Claim 50 was rejected under § 103(a)

over Gotanda in view of Jackson and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,079,018 (Hardy).

The rejections are respectfully traversed and the Examiner is requested to reconsider and

withdraw the rejections in light of the following comments.

The present invention concerns printing out a print job using a credit card.

According to the invention, a user uploads a print job to a storage server. When the user

uploads the print job, the user designates print data to be uploaded and input credit card

information. The credit card information and the print data are associated with one another

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in the storage server. Then, to retrieve the print data and have it printed out, the user can simply go to a printer that has a credit card reader and a network device connected thereto and swipe their credit card through the reader. When the credit card is swiped through the reader, the network device sends the credit card information to the storage server. The storage server, upon receiving the credit card information, looks for print data having the same credit card information associated therewith. If print data is present with the associated credit card information, the print data is downloaded to the network device/printer and printed out. Thus, the credit card information is simply used as a way to associate the print data to a particular user so that the user can have the data printed out at a printer located anywhere simply by walking up to the printer and swiping their credit card through the card reader. With the present invention, there is no need to generate a special job ticket, an acceptance ID, or other type of identification for the user to have the print job printed out; instead, the user merely uses a credit card that they can carry with them all the time, and which can be used over and over to printout print job after print job.

Referring specifically to the claims, independent Claim 11 is a system for printing over a network, comprising a host terminal, a print data storage server, a network interface device, and a printing device. The host terminal comprises an input device that inputs print data to be printed and associated credit card information, and a transmitter that transmits the input print data and the associated credit card information to the print data storage server. The print data storage server comprises a receiver that receives the print data and the associated credit card information transmitted by the host terminal, and that receives credit card information from the network interface device, and a transmitter that transmits to the network interface device, print data having associated credit card information corresponding to the credit card information received by the receiver from the

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network interface device. The network interface device comprises a first receiver that receives input credit card information, a first transmitter that transmits the input credit card information to the print data storage server, a second receiver that receives the print data from the print data storage server, and a second transmitter that transmits the received print data to the printing device. The printing device comprises a receiver that receives the print data transmitted by the network interface device, and an image outputting device that outputs an image based on the received print data.

Independent Claim 1 is a method of printing over a network, comprising the steps of inputting print data to be printed and associated credit card information at a host terminal, uploading a print job comprising the print data and the associated credit card information from the host terminal to a print data storage server, inputting credit card information at an input device that communicates with the print data storage server, transmitting print data having associated credit card information that corresponds to the credit card information input at the input device from the print data storage server to the input device, and printing the print data on a printing device.

Independent Claims 17 and 27 are directed to computer-executable process steps and a computer-readable medium, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

Independent Claims 12 and 14 are directed more specifically to the printing device of system Claim 11, and Claims 15 and 16 are directed more specifically to the server apparatus of system Claim 11.

Independent Claim 37 is directed to a method of printing a print job, comprising the steps of swiping a credit card through a credit card reader at a printing

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device, and in response to the swiping, the printing device printing a print job which has associated credit card information corresponding to the swiped credit card.

Independent Claim 48 includes features along the lines of Claim 1, but also includes additional features. Thus, Claim 48 is a method of printing over a network, comprising the steps of inputting print data to be printed and associated credit card information at a host terminal, uploading a print job comprising the print data and the associated credit card information from the host terminal to a print data storage server, a first encrypting step of the print data storage server performing an encryption process on the associated credit card information and storing a first resultant value with the print data, inputting credit card information at an input device that communicates with the print data storage server, a second encrypting step of the input device performing an encryption process on the input credit card information to obtain a second resultant value, a first transmitting step of the input device transmitting the second resultant value to the print data storage server, a second transmitting step of the print data storage server transmitting print data having a first resultant value that corresponds to the second resultant value to the input device, and printing the print data on a printing device.

Independent Claim 51 also includes features along the lines of Claim 1, but also includes additional features. Thus, Claim 51 is method of printing over a network, comprising the steps of inputting print data to be printed and associated credit card information at a host terminal, uploading a print job comprising the print data and the associated credit card information from the host terminal to a print data storage server, inputting credit card information at an input device that communicates with the print data storage server, a first transmitting step of transmitting the credit card information input in the inputting step to the print data storage server, a second transmitting step of the print

data storage server transmitting data indicative of at least one pending print job that corresponds to the credit card information transmitted in the first transmitting step, displaying a listing of pending print jobs based on the data transmitted in the second transmitting step, selecting at least one print job from the listing displayed in the displaying step, a third transmitting step of transmitting data indicative of the at least one print job selected in the selecting step, a fourth transmitting step of transmitting print data corresponding to the at least one selected print job to the input device, and printing the print data on a printing device.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the present invention. More particularly, with regard to Claims 1, 11, 12, 14 to 17, 27, 48 and 51, uploading, from a host apparatus to a data storage server, a print job comprising print data and associated credit card information, transmitting to/receiving by the storage server credit card information input at an input device that communicates with the storage server, and transmitting, to the input device, print data stored in the storage server having associated credit card information corresponding to the credit card information input at the input device. Along similar lines, with regard to Claim 37, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of swiping a credit card through a credit card reader at a printing device, and in response to the swiping, the printing device printing a print job which has associated credit card information corresponding to the swiped credit card.

Gotanda is merely seen to disclose that a user can upload images at a kiosk in Airport A, with the uploaded images to be printed at a kiosk of Airport B. To accomplish the printing, the user inserts their boarding ticket into a kiosk to identify themselves, with the boarding ticket information being used to generate an acceptance ID

ticket. When the user places the order, the user pays for the printing in advance by

inputting credit card information. Once the order has been placed, an order acceptance slip

is printed out for the user with an acceptance ID printed thereon. Then, when the user

arrives at Airport B, they enter the acceptance ID into a terminal at Airport B to have their

images printed out. Thus, in Gotanda, the credit card information is input merely to pay for

the print order, but the credit card information itself is not associated with the images as

part of a print order that is uploaded to the server so that the server can transmit the print

data to an input device that uploads the corresponding credit card information to the server.

In fact, in Gotanda, after placing an order, if the user were to merely input credit card

information at the kiosk of Airport B, the system would not print out the images, but would

presumably assume that the user is attempting to upload another order. This is readily

apparent in that the credit card is only used during the uploading operation and is not used

during the downloading or printing operation. In order to have the images printed out, the

user must input the acceptance ID generated by the kiosk of Airport A into the kiosk at

Airport B.

In contrast, in the present invention, a user inputs credit card information

that is uploaded to a server and associated with print data. Then, when a user wants to

retrieve and print the print data, they merely swipe their credit card or input their credit

card number at a printer, where the credit card information is uploaded to a server so that

the print data corresponding to the input credit card information is downloaded and printed

out.

In view of the foregoing deficiencies of the applied art, Independent Claims

1, 11, 12, 14 to 17, 27 and 37 are not believed to be anticipated by Gotanda.

With regard to Independent Claim 48, Leong has been studied but is not seen to add anything to make up for the foregoing deficiencies of Gotanda. Specifically, Leong is not seen to disclose or to suggest anything that, when combined with Gotanda, would have resulted in at least the feature of uploading, from a host apparatus to a data storage server, a print job comprising print data and associated credit card information, transmitting to/receiving by the storage server credit card information input at an input device that communicates with the storage server, and transmitting, to the input device, print data stored in the storage server having associated credit card information corresponding to the credit card information input at the input device.

With regard to Independent Claim 51, Jackson has been studied but is not seen to add anything to make up for the foregoing deficiencies of Gotanda. Specifically, Jackson is not seen to disclose or to suggest anything that, when combined with Gotanda, would have resulted in at least the feature of uploading, from a host apparatus to a data storage server, a print job comprising print data and associated credit card information, transmitting to/receiving by the storage server credit card information input at an input device that communicates with the storage server, and transmitting, to the input device, print data stored in the storage server having associated credit card information corresponding to the credit card information input at the input device.

The other applied art, namely Freeny, Bailey and Hardy, has been studied but is not seen to add anything to make up for the foregoing deficiencies of Gotanda. Specifically, none of Freeny, Bailey or Hardy are seen to disclose or to suggest anything that, when combined with Gotanda, Leong, and/or Jackson, would have resulted in at least the feature of uploading, from a host apparatus to a data storage server, a print job comprising print data and associated credit card information, transmitting to/receiving by
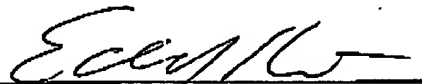
the storage server credit card information input at an input device that communicates with

the storage server, and transmitting, to the input device, print data stored in the storage

server having associated credit card information corresponding to the credit card

information input at the input device.

In view of the foregoing deficiencies of the applied art, all of Claims 1 to 51

are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be

in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's

earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,

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our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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